



# Outdoor Report

The week of December 17, 2012



## \*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*

There has been a change this year regarding the January season.

**ONLY** unfilled antlerless deer tags are valid from December 29 – January 6.

Unfilled "any deer" tags do **not** convert and are not valid during this January season.

**\*The East River Deer season is currently CLOSED\***

**Please use caution on the ice!**

## Brown County

*Nick Cochran/Tim McCurdy*



### Fishing Report:

**Richmond Lake:** Some anglers have been catching bluegill and the occasional walleye. Most of the walleye are pretty small. Ice depths vary from 4-6 inches on the lake. Remember there is a 15 inch minimum length on walleye for Richmond Lake.

**Elm Lake:** Fishermen are catching perch, walleye, and the occasional crappie. The ice depth varies between 4-6 inches on the lake. Remember there is a 15 inch minimum length on walleye for Elm Lake.

**Willow Dam:** Anglers are catching a few crappie. The ice is 4-6 inches thick.

**James River/Elm River:** Some northern being caught up by state line and Hecla, rest of area very slow due to low water levels.



### Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl:** Canada Goose season closed on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> in Unit 1. Snow goose season closes on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> statewide. No geese observed in the county.

**Pheasants:** The pheasant season is open until January 6, 2013. Hunters had fair this past week. Most of the hunters are finding pheasants in thick cover like cattails. The birds are very wild at this time.

**Deer:** Still some good opportunities available to harvest a muzzleloader, archery, or youth deer. The Antlerless Deer Season opens on Dec 29, 2012-January 6, 2013. Hunters with antlerless deer licenses can hunt this season in the county the license is valid for. **Any Deer licenses are not valid during the antlerless season!!!**

Only antlerless deer can be harvested from Jan 1-15 for muzzleloader and archery seasons.

## Clark County

*Kyle Lenzner*



### Fishing Report:

There is some good ice on most lakes, but fishermen are reminded to use caution on the ice. While most areas have good ice, the ice thickness can vary across a single body of water.

**Dry Lake #2:** A few Walleye and Perch are being caught

**Swan Lake:** Fishermen are finding some Walleye and Perch

**Baileys Lake:** Fishermen are catching smaller Walleye

**Antelope Lake:** No Report

**Reid Lake:** No Report

**Kasey's Slough:** Fishermen are catching a few Walleye

**Pepper Slough:** No Report



### Hunting Report:

Archery **Deer** Season is open

**Pheasant** Season is Open - The shooting hours are from 10 am, Central Time to sunset. Hunters seem to be finding birds with help from the recent weather.

**Goose** Season— **Closed Sunday December 16, 2012.**

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## Codington County

*Tait Anderson/Bryce McVicker*



### Fishing Report:

**Lake Kampeska:** No report

**Pelican Lake:** Good ice throughout the lake. Fishing has been decent a few walleye and perch. **Several issues with fishermen leaving pike on the ice remember that is wanton waste.**

**Goose Lake:** Ice conditions are favorable especially along the Grover road. Fishermen are reporting few walleye so far.

**Long Lake:** A few perch being caught but overall spotty reports. Ice depth is in the 5' range.

**Dry Lake:** A few walleye coming out of Dry already the perch have not started biting yet. Good ice conditions.

**Grass Lake:** Ice conditions are not great yet but a few fishermen are trying their luck next to the boat ramp and picking up a walleye or two.

**Stink Lake:** No report

**Punished Woman:** No report

**Deep Lake:** No Report



### Hunting Report:

**Pheasants:** Hunters have finally started reporting better harvest for pheasants. It has been a rough year so far for pheasant hunters but with recent snow fall things may pick up for the last couple weeks of season.

**Waterfowl:** All waterfowl seasons are over in region 4.

**Deer:** Deer have started to group up hunters who have not yet filled their archery or muzzleloader tags should have some good opportunity coming up.

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## Day County

*Bob Losco/Blake Yonke*



### Fishing Report:

**Bitter:** Some of the ice on Bitter is only about 4 inches. Use caution when taking ATV's and snowmobiles on the ice. The walleye and perch appear to be biting on the north end of the lake.

**Waubay:** Good for walleye and perch around Grenville.

**Reetz:** Slow, but anglers are catching a few nice walleye in the early mornings and evenings.



### Hunting Report:

**Duck** and Canada **Goose** seasons are now both closed.

**Pheasant** season is open through the 6<sup>th</sup> of January. The birds seem to be a little more bunched up now and hunters are having a little better success.

**Antlerless** deer season opens up on December 29-January 6. East and West River any deer tags do **not** convert to antlerless deer tags this year. Antlerless tags are the only tags valid for this season.

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## Deuel County

*Adam Behnke*



### Fishing Report:

**Lake Alice:** Fishing has been slow. Anglers are catching a few perch and walleye.

**Bullhead Lake:** No activity.

**Round Lake:** Anglers are catching northern pike and occasionally a perch.

**Lake Oliver:** Little to no activity.

**School Lake:** Little to no activity.

**Fish Lake:** Activity has been slow.

**Lake Francis:** The perch bite is pretty good. Anglers are doing a lot of sorting to catch good-size perch, but they are in there.

**Lake Cochrane:** No activity.

**Clear Lake:** Fishing is average. A few anglers have been catching some walleye on the north end.



### Hunting Report:

**Upland:** Pheasant numbers are low, but they are better than last year. There is very little cover remaining in the county due to the early harvest and dry conditions that have led to increased haying and grazing. If you can find good cover, the birds should be present.

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## Faulk County

*Joe Galbraith*



### Fishing Report:

**Faulkton Lake:** Ice conditions are 4 inches plus. No report of anyone catching fish or trying it.

**Scatterwood Lake:** Ice conditions close to shore are 5 inches plus. Ice conditions vary greatly on Scatterwood. Not report of anyone catching any fish.



### Hunting Report:

Pheasant hunters have to work hard to get pheasants. Good numbers of birds yet. Still good numbers of deer in Faulk County. Muzzleloader and archery hunters should think about hunting in Faulk County.

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## Grant County

*Jamie Pekelder*



### Fishing Report:

**Big Stone Lake:** Ice fishermen are starting to venture out onto the lake in low numbers. Success has been fair for perch so far. There are some open pockets of water on the lake. Ice thickness varies between 3" – 7".

**Summit Lake:** no report



### Hunting Report:

Deer are bunching up into their winter grounds and turkeys are congregating as well.

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# Hamlin County

*Adam Behnke*



## Fishing Report:

**Lake Poinsett:** Fishing has been average.

**As a reminder, there is a minimum length limit for walleye of 15 inches.**

**Lake Albert:** A few walleye are being caught.

**Lake Mary:** No activity.

**Lake John:** No activity.

**Lake Norden:** No activity.

**Clear Lake:** Fishing is slow.

**Fedt Slough:** Small perch can be caught on a regular basis.

**Three Buck Slough:** Some perch are being caught and a few walleye as well.

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# Marshall County

*Casey Dowler*



## Fishing Report:

**White lake:** a few crappies being caught more of a morning and evening bite, ice conditions 4 to 6 inches

**West Stink Lake:** A some perch and walley being caught in morning and evening, but more of an evening bite. Please use caution...ice conditions vary in the thickness of the ice.



## Hunting Report:

**Deer:** Archery & muzzleloader deer hunters watch for areas where deer are bunching up & ask permission for private land.

**Pheasant:** Hunters are having good luck. Pheasants are congregating in areas of cattails. If you find one, you'll find many.

Good luck – be safe!

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# McPherson & Edmunds Counties

*Joe Galbraith*



## Fishing Report:

**Eureka Lake:** Angler have caught a few perch and walleye. Early morning and late evening are the best times. Ice is about 6 inches.

**Long Lake:** Some activity is taking place. Not sure if anything is being caught. Anglers should use caution! Ice is not good!

**Mina Lake:** Ice conditions are not good. Some ice is 4 inches plus and other ice is around 2 inches. Anglers have caught a few walleye but it's been slow.

**Scatterwood Lake:** Ice conditions close to shore are 5 inches plus. Ice conditions vary greatly on Scatterwood. Not report of anyone catching any fish



## Hunting Report:

**Pheasant** hunters are starting to find a few more pheasants. Pheasants are very wild and weather conditions are still making it hard to get close to them. Many pheasants are still out in pastures and open areas. **Deer** hunters are finding a few deer. Deer have not bunched up and are still out in the middle of pastures.

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## Roberts County

*Dean Shultz*



## Fishing Report:

**Lake Traverse:** Anglers are walking out on the ice to give it a try, but fishing is slow.

**Dry Wood Lake:** Angler are venturing out to find fishing a little slow.



## Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl:** All seasons in Roberts County are closed.

**Pheasant:** Hunters are struggling to find birds. Hunters found birds in slough grass next to crop fields.

**Deer:** A few archers, muzzleloader and youth hunters are finding deer.

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## Spink County

*Nick Cochran*



## Fishing Report:

No fishing activity in the area due to freeze up. **The ice is very thin and extremely dangerous.** No ice fishing is advised.



## Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl:** The Canada goose season closed on Dec 16<sup>th</sup> and the snow goose season is open until Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>. Most of the geese have migrated south due to weather conditions.

**Pheasants:** The pheasant season is open until January 6, 2013. The shooting hours are 10:00 AM to sunset for the rest of the season. Hunters had decent success in western Spink County. Most of the hunters are finding pheasants in thick cover like cattails.

**Deer:** The Antlerless Deer Season opens on Dec 29, 2012-January 6, 2013. Hunters with antlerless deer licenses can hunt this season in the county the license is valid for. **Any Deer licenses are not valid during the antlerless season.** The muzzleloader deer season is open from Dec 1, 2012-Jan 15, 2013. Only antlerless deer can be harvested from Jan 1-15. Hunters with any deer muzzleloader tags can harvest bucks until Dec 31, 2012.

Archery deer season is open until Jan 15, 2013. From Jan 1-15 all unfilled licenses convert to antlerless licenses. Hunters with any deer archery tags can harvest bucks until December 31, 2012.

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